



N5KDA

GARY NATIONS

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RE: RM-10413

April 1, 2004

Dear Sirs,

The following are my thoughts and comments on the proposed license-restructuring plan that has been suggested by the ARRL.

1. I am a member of the ARRL and I have been a licensed amateur operator since 1986. The ARRL does not speak for all amateurs. Their opinions of the proposed changes reflect what is good for equipment manufactures and the ARRL.
2. While the FCC has been involved in better enforcement of the amateur bands over the past several years, this has not always been the case. The FCC list one of the reasons for lack of enforcement as manpower and funding. If the proposed changes take place will the FCC receive more funding and hire more enforcement employees? You, as well as I, know the answer is NO.
3. Because of manpower and funding there has been almost no enforcement of regulations on the 11-meter band in decades. I personally know of people on 11 meters that run more than 1KW daily (from mobiles) one local CB'er was attempting to hook up a 10 KW amplifier in his home just two months ago but from what I hear he sold the amplifier after I sent word that I would file a FCC complaint when he started causing interference. Another CB'er has driven down the highway, which is approximately 300 yards from my station and has been splattering on 144.200 MHz. When I found out whom it was I

sent word to him to stay away from my station or have a compliant filed on him and his “ eight pill” amplifier. There are CB’ers running 17 KW and more. These are the very people that the proposed rule changes are targeting to become amateur operators. Does the FCC believe these people will fall right in line and follow all of the FCC rules and power limitations when they all ready are capable of running more than the legal limit now? The FCC can’t or won’t enforce the sale of illegal amplifiers now. Look on the internet and ebay and you will see that anyone can buy high power amplifiers now.

4. It has been suggested that the CW requirement is too much of a burden for most people. I would like to know just how many amateurs have been licensed after passing Morse code tests since the beginning of the amateur radio service. The fact is many people are too lazy to learn CW. These people believe they should be given a license. If a person is serious about amateur radio the 5wpm test in place now is not a burden.
5. The ARRL’s proposal places these new no code CB’ers in a section of the 75-meter phone band where traffic nets, SSTV, and AM operators are now. This section is over crowded now. And you can bet they won’t have the technical skills to transmit a clean signal with the illegal power most will be running.
6. In countries that have dropped the CW requirement, they have more than likely never had a problem with 11-meter operators running thousands of watts “ Waving their hand and getting on down”. Again, these are the people that proposed changes are attempting to attract to the amateur bands.

It is for the above reasons that I and many other amateur operators oppose the rule changes proposed in **RM-10413**. I say many others because I personally know at least twenty amateurs that are also opposed and I know that most won’t submit any comments. I ask that the FCC SERIOUSLY consider the consequences of the proposed rule changes. I could support **RM-10869** and most any other proposal that would keep the Morse code requirement.

Sincerely,

Gary Nations- N5KDA